THE PUNISHER®

ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!

EDMONDSON
MAURER
CARNERO
PALLOT
FABELA

008

FRANK CASTLE was once a decorated Marine officer, an upstanding citizen and family man. Then his family was violently taken from him when they were accidentally killed in a mob hit. From that day on, Frank Castle shed his old identity and became a force of cold, calculated retribution and vigilantism known as

THE PUNISHER

PREVIOUSLY

At the end of the Punisher's war against the Dos Soles gang, Frank was shot in the chest. Frank managed to make his way south of the border, but in seeking discreet medical attention he was captured by "El Diablito" Ortiz, a South American crime lord who decided to sell him to the highest bidder.

Imprisoned with Frank in Ortiz's compound was a Special Forces soldier captured while his team was observing Ortiz. Using a drone assigned to his mission, the soldier helped Frank escape the compound. They returned to the soldier's encampment where they found one of his teammates injured but still alive. Unfortunately, Ortiz was close on their trail, along with the man his buyer had sent to collect the Punisher…the villainous mercenary Crossbones!

EL DIABLITO
part two

KEVIN MAURER & NATHAN EDMONDSON
writers

CARMEN CARNERO
penciler

TERRY PALLOT
inker

ANTONIO FABELA
colorist

VC's CORY PETIT
letterer

MITCH GERADS
cover artist

JAKE THOMAS
editor

AXEL ALONSO
editor in chief

JOE QUESADA
chief creative officer

DAN BUCKLEY
publisher

ALAN FINE
exec. producer

© 2014 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. WWW.MARVEL.COM

WHEN I WAS IN THE Q COURSE* I HEARD THIS SAYING: HOW DO YOU EAT AN ELEPHANT?

*SPECIAL FORCES QUALIFICATION COURSE.

THE ANSWER: ONE BITE AT A TIME.

THAT WAS HOW I MADE IT THROUGH THE BRUTAL RUNS, THE NIGHT LAND NAV COURSE, THE DAYS WITH NO SLEEP.

JUST GET TO THE NEXT EVENT, I TOLD MYSELF. JUST TAKE ANOTHER BITE.

STAY WITH ME, BUDDY-- UGH!

HEY, GREG, YOU OKAY?

OH NO...JAKE? BEN?

DAMN.

I COULD HEAR THE GUNFIRE...

...HE BOUGHT ME ENOUGH TIME TO GET GREG OUT...

THIS IS FOR THE PAIN. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

IT WAS MY TURN TO RETURN THE FAVOR.

WE DON'T LEAVE TEAMMATES BEHIND.

WATCH YOUR FIRE. WE WANT HIM ALIVE!

ONE MORE STEP, FRANK...

WHAT THE HELL?

WE'VE GOT TO MOVE. THEY'RE GOING TO FLANK US IF WE STAY HERE.

REMEMBER YOUR BATTLE DRILLS?

SET!

MOVING!

SET!

MOVING!

WHERE DID THEY GET A SAW MACHINE GUN?

MAYBE AT THEIR CAMP? MY MEN JUST FOUND A RADIO, GUNS AND SOME OTHER SUPPLIES THERE.

THE CAMP ISN'T FAR. MAYBE THEY'LL GO BACK.

TELL YOUR MEN TO WAIT THERE, ORTIZ. WHERE ARE THE OTHER AMERICANS?

MY MEN KILLED THEM.

JUST LIKE THEY TOOK CARE OF CASTLE?

WE'RE PARTNERS NOW. YOU NEED ME IF YOU WANT TO CATCH THE PUNISHER.

WE'RE NOT PARTNERS. YOU'RE LUCKY CASTLE IS WORTH MORE THAN YOU.

WHEN THE SHOOTING STARTS, MAKE SURE YOU TAKE CROSSBONES OUT.

WE NEED A MEDEVAC.

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO CALL IT IN?

WE HAVE A RADIO AT OUR PATROL BASE NEAR THE TOP OF THE HILL. IT ISN'T FAR.

SO WHAT DO I CALL YOU?

FRANK.

WELL, I'M TOM. GRAB BEN AND JAKE'S WATER. WE'LL NEED IT.

FRANK, WE'RE FIXIN' TO MAKE CONTACT AGAIN. THIS IS *MY* MISSION. I WOULDN'T HOLD IT AGAINST YOU IF YOU BEAT FEET. WE'RE EVEN.

IT'S MY FIGHT NOW. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME BACK. I'LL GET YOUR TEAMMATE. YOU TAKE THE POINT. YOU KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING.

SORRY TO LEAVE YOU BOYS LIKE THIS. I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU.

WATCH FOR LOCALS. SOME HUNTERS SPOTTED US LEAVING OUR PATROL BASE AND TIPPED OFF ORTIZ. I GUESS IT WAS SMARTER FOR 'EM TO WORK WITH ORTIZ THAN AGAINST HIM.

WHAT WAS YOUR MISSION?

IT ISN'T A SECRET NOW. WE WERE TRAINING WITH THE MEXICAN MARINES WHEN S.H.I.E.L.D. TAPPED US TO WATCH ORTIZ'S COMPOUND.

A FEW DAYS BEFORE...

"WE SPENT A WEEK IN ISOLATION PLANNING AND THEN PATROLLED IN AT NIGHT.

"S.H.I.E.L.D. WAS LOOKING FOR A WEAPONS SHIPMENT. ORTIZ GOT HIS HANDS ON SOME OLD STARK SURPLUS. THEY WANTED US TO VERIFY DELIVERY AND GET PHOTOS OF WHO DELIVERED IT...

"EASY DAY UNTIL WE GOT COMPROMISED. WE TRIED TO GET TO OUR EMERGENCY EXFIL POINT..."

CONTACT LEFT!

"I GOT HIT AND WENT DOWN. I COULD HEAR JAKE CALLING FOR A MEDIC, BUT I COULDN'T MOVE.

"WHEN I WOKE UP, I WAS SURROUNDED WITH NO CHANCE OF ESCAPE.

"THEY STRUNG ME UP AND BEAT ON ME FOR A WHILE. THEN THEY TOSSED ME IN THE CELL UNTIL YOU SHOWED UP."

THAT'S MY STORY. WHAT'S YOURS? YOU'RE NOT IN THE MARINES NOW, BUT YOU'VE OBVIOUSLY BEEN IN COMBAT. FALLUJAH? MARJAH?

BOTH.

I'M STILL FIGHTING, JUST AT HOME. I MAKE SURE NOTHING SLIPS THROUGH THE CRACKS.

AND WHEN THINGS SLIP THROUGH?

LIKE YOU, I DO BAD THINGS TO BAD PEOPLE.

SOME PEOPLE JUST NEED SOME KILLIN', RIGHT?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

YOU MUST BE WINNING THAT WAR IF SOMEONE IS SENDING CROSSBONES AFTER YOU.

STILL NO SIGN OF THEM. WE SEARCHED THE CAMP AND THEY LEFT SOME GEAR, BUT I DON'T SEE A MACHINE GUN. JUST AMMO.

WE'RE OUT OF SAW AMMO. I'VE GOT TWO MAGAZINES FOR THE M4. HOW MUCH AMMO DO YOU HAVE?

TWO MAGAZINES. FOUR 40MM ROUNDS.

I'VE GOT THE LEFT TWO.

I'LL TAKE THE RIGHT TWO.

LO SIENTO, PAPI.

HE WAS CALLING ORTIZ WHEN WE HIT HIM.

LOOKS LIKE THE RADIO BATTERY STILL HAS SOME JUICE, BUT THEY BEAT THE HELL OUT OF THE TRANSMITTER.

ANY STATION, THIS IS SPIDER THREE THREE. WE ARE PROCEEDING TO EMERGENCY EXFIL POINT.

WE'VE GOT COMPANY. CROSSBONES AND ORTIZ. WITH ABOUT TWENTY MEN...

"...THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN OUTRUN THEM. BETTER TO MAKE A STAND HERE."

THERE WAS A DOGLEG ABOUT A QUARTER OF THE WAY DOWN THE PATH. WE CAN SET UP AN AMBUSH.

YOU REMEMBER HOW TO SET A CLAYMORE MINE? I'LL GET GREG ON THE SAW.

LOOKS LIKE GREG HAS RETURNED TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING. HOW YOU FEELIN'?

READY TO GO HOME. WHO IS THAT GUY?

YOU DON'T REMEMBER FRANK? HOW HARD DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD?

FRONT TOWARD ENEMY

WE ONLY HAVE 200 ROUNDS. WITH THAT LEG, ONCE YOU RUN OUT, START TOWARD THE EXFIL POINT.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

"I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU WITH FRANK."

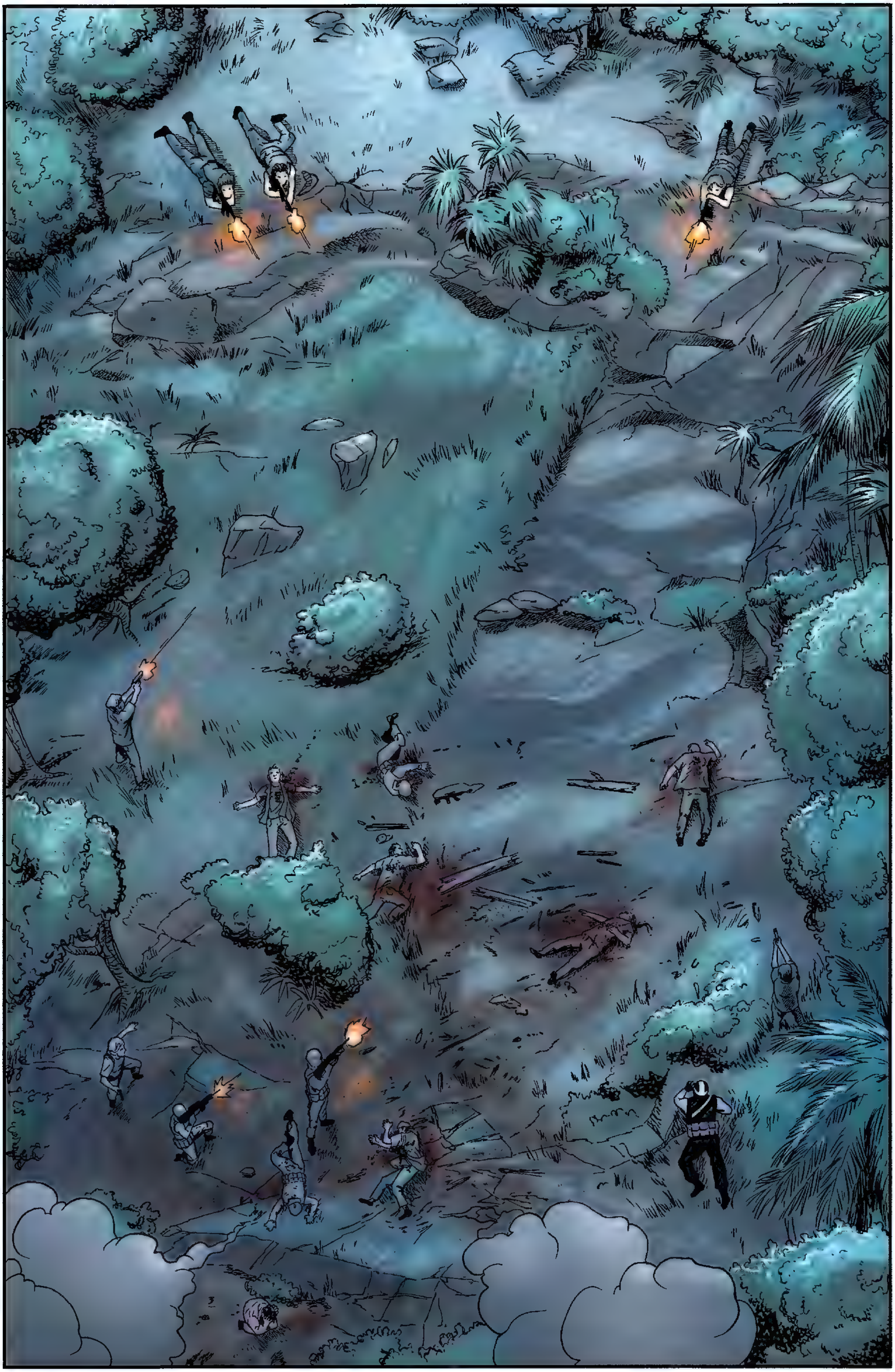
GREG HAS THE SAW IN A SUPPORT POSITION. ONCE HIS 200 ROUNDS ARE GONE, HE IS HEADING FOR THE EMERGENCY EXFIL POINT.

I'LL INITIATE WITH THE CLAYMORE...

"FIRE ONE MAGAZINE AND THEN WE BREAK CONTACT."

IN THE KILL ZONE IN 3, 2...

CLIK



LOOK OUT!

TIME'S UP, FRANK.

LISTEN TO ME, TOM--

UUNGH!

COME ON, FRANK, WE'RE ALREADY LATE. THIS IS STARTING TO COST ME MONEY.

I WISH I COULD WATCH YOU DIE RIGHT NOW, PUNISHER.

HERE, HOLD THIS FOR ME.

SEÑOR RUMLOW, I'D LIKE TO RENEGOTIATE.

HOW MUCH IS HE WORTH TO YOU?

HUH. I SUPPOSE THAT WORKS OUT.

NOW IT'S TIME TO GO, FRANK.

NO.

YOU'RE NOT IN MUCH OF A POSITION TO GIVE ORDERS.

YOU CAME FOR ME. LET HIM GO.

YOU KNOW WHAT I'VE DONE AND WHAT I CAN DO IF PUSHED. THINK YOU CAN STOP ME WITHOUT KILLING ME?

LET 'EM GO, I'LL COME QUIETLY AND YOU'LL MAKE YOUR MONEY.

THEY ARE SPORT. I DON'T CARE.

OUR RIDE IS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL.

YOU KNOW THE DRILL, CASTLE. HOOD AND CUFFS.

GO, TOM. GET THE GUYS AND GO.

CLICK CLICK CLICK

...AND DON'T LOOK BACK.

FRANK SACRIFICED HIMSELF SO I COULD LIVE...

I WAS BACK TO EATING THE ELEPHANT. BUT THIS TIME, I COULD ONLY FOCUS ON THE SKULL.

I PUT ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER TO MAKE SURE HIS SACRIFICE WASN'T WASTED...

BECAUSE FRANK IS THE ONLY REASON WE'RE ALIVE.

WHERE'S FRANK?

BUT WE DON'T LEAVE TEAMMATES BEHIND. AFTER THEY PATCHED ME UP, I TOOK A TEAM BACK TO RECOVER BEN AND JAKE'S BODIES AND SEARCH FOR FRANK, BUT HE WAS GONE.

WELL, FRANK, WE'RE GOING TO HEAD OFF AND DELIVER YOU TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, WHO IN THIS CASE IS--

ASSET, INTERSECT. STANDBY FOR NEW TASKING.

ROGER, INTERSECT. GOOD COPY ON NEW COORDINATES AND TASKING.

TAKING ORDERS NOW, ARE YOU? SOUNDS LIKE IT.

JUST A PIT STOP. GOING TO PICK UP SOME OF MY GUYS AND BLOW UP A BOAT. YOU CAN WATCH.

OR LISTEN, ANYWAY.

AND WE ALL TAKE ORDERS FROM SOMEONE, DON'T WE?

ABOUT A YEAR LATER, I WAS BACK IN AFGHANISTAN.

I NEVER FORGOT FRANK'S SACRIFICE. SOMETIMES I GOOGLE HIM HOPING TO FIND A MENTION OF THE PUNISHER IN THE NEWS. I KNOW IN MY GUT HE IS FIGHTING SOMEWHERE.

WE MIGHT BE IN DIFFERENT WARS, BUT WE'RE BOTH IN THE SAME FIGHT.

I WILL ALWAYS CONSIDER FRANK PART OF THE TEAM.

SCORPION MAIN, PUNISHER 33. WE ARE TROOPS IN CONTACT.

AND I'LL ALWAYS FEEL LIKE HE'S GOT MY BACK.